Some of the

LETTERS

AND

PAPERS

Which were WRITTEN by

Mrs. *Mary Pennyman*,

RELATING TO

An *Holy* and *Heavenly* Converſation, In which She Lived to Her Dying-Day; are here Recommended to the Serious Peruſal of all Sincere Enquirers after True Happineſs.

By *J. P.*

The Righteous ſhall be in Everlaſting Remembrance.

Bleſſed are Thoſe that Die in the LORD; *They Reſt from Their Labours; Their Works follow Them.*

London, Printed by *J. How*, in the *Ram-Head-Inn-Yard*, in *Fanchurch-Street*, *March* 10. 170$\frac{0}{1}$.

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PREFACE.

PRobably the Reader may expect I ſhould give ſome particular Account of the Exemplary Vertues, frame of Mind and Diſpoſition, my Late Wife Liv'd and Dy'd in. But I being ſo nearly Related, if I ſhould Write the plain Truth touching thoſe matters concerning Her (it being ſo far above, and beyond the Life and Practice of moſt in this Age) it could hardly be Credited; and would be thought to proceed rather from my Natural Affection and Partiality, than from real Truth: And therefore I rather chuſe to be Silent therein, and refer the Reader to Her own Writings, which, tho' She be Dead, yet Speak for Her. Only this I may ſay, I do believe She was one of the Beſt of Wives, and certainly one of the Suitableſt, Serviceableſt, and Comfortableſt Companions, for many Years, eſpecially in Divine Matters, to me, of any one upon the Earth; She was a Meet, and a very great Help to me, in all thoſe various Exerciſes and Tryals I have been

made to paſs through, ſince the ALMIGHTY *joyned us together, which is now about Twenty Nine Years.*

SHE Departed this Life (after ſeveral Years Weakneſs, and Illneſs of Body) the Fourteenth of January, 170$\frac{0}{1}$. *Being Seventy Years of Age laſt* May-Day.

HER Fathers Name was Edmund Heron, *a Gentleman of a good Eſtate, and Family of great Repute; His Great Grand-Father Built* Hackney-Church, *His Arms, the three Herons, are ſet up in ſeveral places there. But Her Father careleſly waſting his Eſtate, and alſo the great Loſſes they had by the Civil-Wars, (being All for the then King) they had little left, and Ten Children to provide for; the Care of all which lay chiefly upon Her Mother (who was Juſtice* Wood's *Daughter of* Woodborough.) *She was a Woman whoſe Faith was great, and Her Conſcience tender in all She did; the Fear of the* ALMIGHTY *dwelt in Her Heart, which taught Her True Wiſdom all Her Daies (Of All which I have been Credibly Inform'd)* Happy are thoſe that are ſo Taught.

BRITISH MUSEUM

John Pennyman.

Some of the

LETTERS and PAPERS

Which were WRITTEN by

Mrs. *Mary Pennyman.*

This following my Wife Writ touching her Preſervation in the Great Plague *and* Fire, 1665 *and* 1666.

1 WHEN I Conſider the wonderful Preſervation that has been wrought for me, and my Children, it makes me greatly to Love and Fear the LORD; deſiring above all things that I, and mine, may keep in Obedience to HIM all the days of our Lives, and that we may be truly Humbled before HIM, in the Senſe of HIS Mercies.

I WENT to Viſit many that had the Diſtemper upon them, yet got not the leaſt hurt thereby, and my Houſe joyning to the Grave-Yard, my two Children went daily to follow the Dead Corps that dy'd of it, to the Grave; this they did of their own accord, the ſight of which was ready to ſhake my Faith; yet I durſt not forbid them, leſt the Name of my GOD ſhould be diſhonoured, which I had ſo openly made Profeſſion of; and ſuch was HIS Love and Mercy to Me, that my Self, Children, and Family, were all preſerv'd, not having the leaſt of that Diſtemper, but in Health all the Time. Let my Soul, with all mine, magnifie the LORD *for ever*; and let us fear and dread before HIM whilſt we have a Day to Live.

AND in the Year 1666, when that great Conſuming Fire was in this City, then was Wonders alſo wrought for us. The Week before it began, I was much preſs'd in my Mind to owe no Man any thing but Love; this I thought not poſſible, to have ſo great a Trade, but that I muſt owe

ſome Men Money for Goods; yet ſo it was ordered for me, that with the Money I Receiv'd and Took, I paid all I owed to every Man in a Weeks Time: This I looked upon as a great Wonder wrought for me, and went up into my Chamber, where I wept much before the LORD, ſaying, *For what Cauſe is this Wonderful Thing brought to paſs? Or what have I to do whereby THY Name may be Magnify'd before all the People?* And the next Morning one brought me word there was a very great Fire broke forth in the City, which when I ſaw, I did believe it was ſent to deſtroy, and that I muſt give up all I had to the Flames; which I willingly did, ſaying in my Heart, *O LORD, what I have THOU haſt of THY Mercy given Me, and I Freely offer it up to THEE again:* Yet did firmly believe that tho' the Fire came round about me, my Houſe ſhould not be Burnt, unleſs the Will of the LORD was ſo, and then I would not have it otherwiſe, but rather rejoyce to bear a Teſtimony to HIS Power.

AND when the Fire began to come near us, my Children and Servants being fearful, I ſent them all to *Mile-End-Green*, and ſtaid my ſelf in the Houſe, expecting it might be burnt down; yet I believ'd if any thing ſav'd it, it muſt be by keeping the Goods in it, that had been ſo honeſtly got; but if they ſhould be carried out, then the Houſe muſt down: But this was hid from others, though made known to me.

MANY Friends and Neighbours came in much Love to help out with my Goods, to ſave them for me, uſing many Arguments to prevail with me, ſaying, If all I had was loſt, what ſhould they do I owed Money to? I told them I owed none in the World. Then one *Tomas Paddle*, an Ancient Quaker, came to me with angry words, telling me, *People ſay thou wilt not remove thy Goods; it may be thou do'ſt not care if thy Children be caſt upon* Friends *to keep:* I anſwered with Tears, That *I was ſure, rather than it ſhould be ſo, I ſhould find Money as I went along the Streets, to provide for them.* Thus was my Integrity kept, notwithſtanding all Intic-ements. Several brought Carts to the Door to ſave my Goods, and if by their earneſt perſwaſions I gave the leaſt way,

way, then Weakneſs and Shame came over me; But when I kept ſteadfaſt, then I was ſtrong, becauſe my Truſt was in the LORD, and not in Man.

ALSO one *John Holmſted* came above Twenty Miles with his Waggon, purpoſely to ſave my Goods, and (as he ſaid) to ſell them for me, (he having heard of me) but I durſt not in the leaſt Conſent thereto; ſo he only queried with me how the Money which I owed ſhould be payed? I told him I owed none to any Body; ſo he went away with Satisfaction, and had a Senſe of the Faith that was given me, at that time, which was the Gift of GOD, and for which my Soul doth at this time praiſe and magnifie HIS moſt Holy NAME.

THE Fire ſtay'd before it came at us, and we were all preſerv'd. All Goods were ſold then at a great Rate, but I durſt not raiſe the Price of any of mine, but let others have the Benefit of my Preſervation. Thus have I given a ſhort hint of our great Preſervation, little in compariſon of what might be writ; but if I ſhould forget theſe Mercies, the Stones in the Street might riſe up in Judgment againſt me. And I hope that my Children, at my Relation of this, (they being then too young to remember it) will turn to the LORD, and love HIM with all their Hearts, and with all their Souls, for HIS merciful Goodneſs to them, and to me their dear Mother.

O THAT Men would Praiſe the LORD for HIS Goodneſs, and declare the Wonders that HE doth for the Children of Men! How unſearchable are HIS Judgments, and HIS Ways paſt finding out! I will mention the Loving-kindneſs of the LORD, and the Praiſes of the LORD, according to all that HE hath beſtowed on us.

She alſo Writ this concerning her Leaving the City, 1670.

Friends and People,

2 IT's in my Heart to give Satisfaction to all that have known me, how it is with me as to the leaving this City. The LORD having been with me miraculouſly theſe eight Years (ſince the Death of my dear Husband) and carried me through many Deep Sorrows, in which time HE brought

me near unto HIMSELF, for which my Soul doth truly Bleſs HIS moſt Holy Name; and by HIS Heavenly Power HE hath alſo kept me from the very Temptation of being greedy of Gain; I have neither wronged nor defrauded any Creature, either in Buying or Selling, that I know of, but have ſought their good, even as my own: And now, I ſay, the ſame GOD that hath thus preſerved me in this place, hath put it into my Heart to depart from hence; the cauſe thereof is not yet made known unto me, but feeling HIS good Spirit leading me forth, (not knowing what my Service may be for HIM elſewhere) I dare not to ſay, as *Pharaoh* did, *Who is the LORD, that I ſhould obey HIM?* Neither am I to reaſon, or conſult with Fleſh and Blood about it, becauſe I know HIM to be a GOD of Power, by whom all Actions are weighed: So let none blame me, as to my Children, for as the care of a tender Mother hath been in me for them, ſo it remains, and muſt be ſo to the end of my Days, being aſſured that their Father's GOD will be with them, and HIS Bleſſing ſhall reſt upon us for evermore, even HIS Bleſſing who hath Choſen me to Follow HIM fully; and I may not thus requite HIM, who hath Bleſſed me with a great Trade and Plenty (as to the outward) even what can be deſired, as to make it the Cauſe of my Diſobedience to HIM, and ſo to have my Heart ſet upon it, as not willingly to leave it, when HE calls from it.

OH my FATHER! THY Preſence with me is the only thing deſired by me; having that, it's enough; and, as THOU has Given, even ſo Take Away as THOU Pleaſeſt. A certain Faith is in me, that not one Hair of my Head ſhall Periſh without HIS Providence, who Ruleth all Things according to the Counſel of HIS own Will; ſo that I nor Mine, by this Act, ſhall never Want.

THEN let none take thought, for it never added any thing to me; but let all your Minds be turned Inward, and in the Dread and Fear of the LORD look not Out. It's but a little Time, and we are all Paſſing out of this World; Oh! let all Watch, that their Dayes be not Ended before Their Work be Finiſhed for which They came into the World. I know it was not to be Heaping up Periſhing

Riches

Riches all our Days; but the PEARL of greateſt Price being Found, They that know the Excellency and Virtue of it, can Willingly Sell All to Purchaſe it: For all *Outward Glory*, I am to Declare, ſhall more and more be Stain'd and the *Glory Within* more Fully Reveal'd, to all that Love the LORD in Sincerity.

THE Treaſures of this World let them Take that Seek after them, for indeed my Kingdom is not of it, neither is my Delight in any thing but to Feel the LORD Near unto me, to Guide me in all my Ways; whoſe Voice, HIS own Sheep do know, and cannot follow any other; all Periſhing things are under Their Feet; the Myſtery of *Everlaſting Life* being Reveal'd, is more to them than All.

THIS let all know, that I Leave not my Trade in my own Will, nor in a Temptation, nor in an Imagination, nor in Slighting the LORD's Mercy to me therein, neither Their Love, into whoſe Hearts the LORD put it to Trade with me; but in *Pure Obedience* to the Leadings of HIS own Spirit of Life, made manifeſt in my mortal Body: And good have I found it for me to be kept in the *Croſs*, which is now freely taken up by me, becauſe HE hath of HIS infinite Love and Mercy joyn'd my Soul unto HIMSELF in an *Everlaſting Covenant*, that no mortal Thing can break; Bleſs the LORD, all you that know the ſame.

AND this is in my Heart to deſire, That the LORD may ſhew Mercy to all that have ſhewed Mercy to me; and where any Hard-Heartedneſs hath been, it may be forgiven.

AND ſo in the Love, and Good-will, and Peace of my Heavenly FATHER, and in HIS Meek, Pure, and Quiet Spirit, I am to leave you, and could, if it were Required of me (I hope) even lay down my Life for the Righteous Seed's ſake in all, that it might Reign and Rule, which can only Glorifie the LORD.

This likewiſe ſhe Writ ſometime after we were Married, to Two Intimate and Endeared Friends, Mr. and Mrs. Mud, *viz.*

3. I Have been of late oppreſt in my Mind, to conſider of the deep Deceit, Hypocriſie, high Boaſting and wrong Judging of the People called *Quakers*, and could grieve for their

heir Treachery: How like they are to the Phariſees of Old, Zealous for thoſe Outward Laws & Ceremonies they have made and ſet up, but not for the Weighty Matters. They in days paſt accuſed HIM, who came to fulfil all Righteouſneſs, That HE took more Liberty than They; HE faſted not like Them, eat with Publicans and Sinners, broke the Sabbath-Day, *&c.* So Theſe ſay of any who for Conſcience-ſake dare abide no longer in Their Form, that they are gone back into *Egypt*, that they are turn'd again into the World, and departed from the Truth: Thus do they make the Commands of GOD of none effect thro' their Traditions, limiting the Holy ONE of *Iſrael*. But it concerns us all not to heed the Accuſations and Reproaches of Men, whoſe Tongues are their own; for our Minds ought to be at perfect Liberty to obey and ſerve the LORD, in whatſoever HE requires.

IT's about a quarter of a year ago, ſince I was made to wear Lace on my Head (and went to their Meeting the ſame Day) it may be it was to ſhew that I am no **Quaker**, that being a poſitive Breach of one of their Laws; or to give them a New Occaſion to Reproach me, that they might fill up their Meaſure therein: But if I (through the Mercy of the LORD) be kept in a Serious, Sober, Weighty *Spirit*, happy ſhall I be, when they will be put to ſhame, that have pretended high, and yet can judge but by the outſide. They ſay we are turned into the World, but our Deſires truly are to get more and more out of the *Spirit* of this World, and to keep with That which is not of this World; ſeeking to know the Myſtery of Godlineſs reveal'd in us; ſo ſhall we be delivered from the Myſtery of Iniquity which works in ſecret, to ſet Perſons down at Reſt in an out-ſide Righteouſneſs to be ſeen of Men; which now proves only the **Harlot**, to draw from the conſtant waiting, longing, and thirſting after HIM, from whom all Good comes. Therefore is the **Demure Image** become Loathſome; and, as They once ſaid concerning thoſe call'd Ordinances, we deny Theſe, becauſe the *Spirit* of Whoredom, Apoſtacy, and all manner of Wickedneſs hath got them, and cover'd it ſelf with Them. There was a time when it was Death

not to Circumciſe, and there was a time when *Paul* mad it worſe than Death to uſe it. There was a time when th LORD led us thro' the *Croſs* into ſome Outward Things but alas! theſe People have ſet them up as IDOLS; therefore thro' the *Croſs again* we muſt go to leave them: Happy are they whoſe Hearts are kept ſingle herein, and can chooſe no Path-way for themſelves; They ſhall be found Lovers of the Truth, redeemed from the Earth, and brought out of *Egypt*, willing and obedient Children, more than They who boaſt of the Heavenly *Power* among Them, but are not led by It, neither will They have It to Reign, but Their own Laws muſt be above It. I cannot but ſee it is a Day of Humiliation, wherein all ought to ſearch their own Hearts, and be humbled; for the Spirit of the LORD is grieved, both by Profeſſor and Prophane, ſo that HE withdraws HIMSELF; but the upright in Heart follows hard after HIM, crying for HIS Preſence in ſecret, cannot live without HIM. Theſe HE will comfort, and draw near to Them, giving them Peace in HIM, when all the World are in Diſtreſs. So, Dear Friends, in the Inward Work let us all be Diligent and Zealous, leſt whilſt we ſee the Evils of Others, we may be blind to any that's within our Selves, and then are we miſerable: The Work and Worſhip that's called for now, is, I do aſſure you, harder and ſtricter than all Outward Performances are. I am ready to blame my ſelf for writing ſo much, for what are all Words? But at this time bear with me, for my Heart longs more and more after the Inward Work, that we may all be brought into It, and find a Growth and Encreaſe therein, more than ever we have found in all Outward Performances.

Alſo ſhe Writ this following to ſhew ſome reaſon for her Leaving the People called Quakers.

4. BE it known unto all People, and to my own Children alſo, That I left not the *Quakers* to ſhun the Croſs, or to take more Liberty in any thing; for wo is to me, if I keep not in the Daily Croſs, which Crucifies me to the World, and the World to me: But the ground of my leaving thoſe People, was, That my Conſcience might not be inſlav'd, or

kept

kept in Bondage, by any Man or Men. And the LORD, who hath ſeen the ſore Oppreſſion of *HIS* People, is come to deliver, tho' thro' Hardſhips, Straits and Temptations; yet Way ſhall be made for them, and the **Impoſers** ſhall not be able to bring them back again under their **Impoſitions**, which muſt ſink, when the Innocent ſhall ſtand upon a Rock.

AND this let all know further, That my deſire is always to be guided into, and kept in that narrow Path, in which but few can walk; that is, between this People called **Quakers**, and the Vain and Prophane of this World; neither to turn to the Right Hand or to the Left; not to get into a Conceited Singularity, or **Demure Out-ſide**, to be ſeen of Men, Judging all that comes not into the ſame; neither to run into exceſs of open Vanity, knowing no ſtop to the vain Mind: But the LORD, who knows my Heart, and the ſecret Thoughts thereof, knows my Care hath been to avoid both theſe, not heeding any Reports or Reproaches, but deſiring to keep to *THAT* which is to be my Guide all my Days.

MANY are ſaying, *Shew us a better People, and we will come off from Theſe:* To ſuch I ſay, You are not in that Faith and Love he was in, who ſaid, *Shew us the FATHER, and it ſufficeth:* You would become HIS Teacher, HE not yours: But I do believe many ſhall be brought to Live in that Unſpotted Life, into which no Hypocrite can come: *Mark the Perfect Man, and behold the Upright; for the End of that Man is Peace*, when the **Troublers** ſhall be **Troubled.**

IF the Glory of this Latter Houſe ſhall be Greater than the Glory of the Former, as hath been declared, then muſt the Building be laid with Try'd Stones: And if the Time be coming, that *the Dead ſhall hear the Voice of the Son of GOD, and they that hear ſhall Live*; Then Faithfulneſs and Silence will be more profitable than Boaſting in many Words.

THE Glory of this World paſſeth away, therefore its not to be deſir'd; and whatever puffeth up the Mind with Pride, it is to be abhorr'd: For I teſtifie in the Fear of the ALMIGHTY, (who hath ſaid *Walk before ME, and be thou Upright*)

Upright) That whoſoever loves this World, and have their Minds taken up with the ſeeming Delights thereof, that the Love of the FATHER is not in them; neither hath HE Pleaſure in any that takes up a Reſt in any Outward Performance. HIS Words are *Spirit* and *Life*, they quicken from all dead Formality and Earthly Glory. HIS Preſence is more than all.

WHEN I have ſeriouſly conſidered how many there are who ſhall cry to the Mountains and to the Rocks, *Fall on us, and cover us from the Wrath of the LAMB*, I have lamented, and alſo deſired that the LORD would make me an Inſtrument, by Word, Example, and good Converſation, to prevent their Miſery before it be too late: Yet if nothing herein prevail, but the Unrighteous will be Unrighteous ſtill, and they that are Earthly-minded, will be ſo ſtill, then ſhall I go to the Grave in Peace, and ſay, *Return to thy Reſt, O my Soul, for the LORD hath dealt bountifully with thee.* I well know it's better, and rather to be choſen, to ſerve HIM in Reproaches, Sorrows, and Sufferings, whilſt we are here, than to be caſt out of HIS Preſence for ever. *The LORD made Man Upright, but he hath ſought out many Inventions.* Therefore is HE ſtaining the Glory of all Fleſh, that no Excellency may appear but in HIM alone. The Mind that's Abroad, will ſeek for Outward Helps; but they who can truly ſay as *Job* did, *I know that my Redeemer liveth*, can be content to be ſtript of all, ſo HE may be their Strength and Teacher: Happy are they who witneſs HIM ſo to be.

Pa. 44. 45. 46 Read next

This following my Wife writ to an Intimate Acquaintance, who had for a long time been ſorely Griev'd for the Iniquity of the foreſaid People; yet at length fell in with 'em, and became a Preacher amongſt 'em: But we not Owning their Miniſtry, nor Conforming to their Ceremonies of Thee, Thou, *and the like, then he turn'd into Enmity againſt us: However, we believing him to be one of the Sincereſt, and Upright Hearted amongſt 'em, caus'd Her to Write ſeveral Letters to him, (ſome of which are inſerted hereafter) that if poſſible, he might be reclaim'd from his Rigidneſs and Cenſoriouſneſs.*

Dear

Dear G. 27 *Feb.* 167$\frac{2}{3}$.

5. DOst Thou thus requite the LORD, who directed thee to a Measure of HIMSELF, (to be thy GUIDE and LEADER) thus to Kick against IT, in thy self and others, who dare not Live a day, but in the Obedience to IT? But this is the Fruit of setting your selves in a Form out of which the LORD is departed; there you get into HIS Place, limiting HIS Holy Spirit to your Carnal Wisdoms, testifying against all that are Led by IT, if not according to your Imaginations; but you shall know that the LORD hath sav'd a Remnant to HIMSELF, that cannot joyn to any that are departed from HIM, let their pretences be ever so fair, or their Cruelty ever so great; for we know that the Power that is with us, shall dash to pieces all that are Apostatiz'd and Backsliden from IT; yea, and except you Repent, your Name shall become a stink in the Earth, and you shall be a hissing to all Nations; yea, I say, the LORD will so Provoke, Vex and Torment You by a feeble People, that the very Heathen shall have You in Derision for Your deep Revolting from HIM, for which my Soul hath been Bowed down many a time.

Another Letter to the same Person. 21 *Octob.* 72

6. WHY is not thy whole dependance upon the Spirit's Teachings? And why waits thou not upon it, for Counsel and Direction in every thing? Is not It sufficient alone, without the Help of any other? Or, is the *Cross* too great into which it Leads? Is not the Reward of being joyn'd to It, and made one with It, enough to the full, for all the Reproach it Leads into? then seek not satisfaction in any thing that must Perish; for HE must Reign who will dash to pieces all outward Fellowships, who seek to limit HIS Power. Thou art once more Warn'd to forsake all for HIM; sink down low into his Dread and Fear, that thy Soul may be Fed with the Bread of Life, which endures for ever; and settle not thy self in a false Peace, where the true can never be had; how long shall thy own Wisdom deceive thee? Let Innocency take place, if thou singly joyn to that which is *Pure*, then thy Lovers will forsake thee; but why sell'st thou not all

to

to Purchaſe the PEARL of ſo great Price? Haſt thou no Feeling, how the Innocent Seed lies in Suffering? Add thou not then to Its Oppreſſion. Hath the Springs of Everlaſting Life been opened to us in former Days, and canſt thou now feed upon *Husks*, or make a plain Path-way for thy Steps, out of which thou reſolveſt the LORD ſhall never Lead thee? Hunt abroad no longer, the chief Corner Stone lies near, the Wiſe Maſter-Builders have Rejected HIM, Kick not at HIS Reproofs, but Diligently heed HIM when he calls for thy Return, thy time may be but ſhort, take heed how thou ſpends a Moment out of HIS Worſhip which is Inviſible; then will thy mind be kept clean from thy own Thoughts and Conſultations.

THE LORD ſpake thus to me with a ſtrong Hand, and Inſtructed me, that I ſhould not Walk in the Way of this People, ſaying, *Say yee not a Confederacy to all them, to whom this People ſhall Say a Confederacy.*

I having Writ ſome Inſtructions to our Children (which were Printed) my Wife Writ this alſo to them, viz.

My Dear Children, 1674.

7SUFFER not Your Minds to wander abroad, but heep your Fathers Counſel, that it may be well with You, when your days are finiſhed on Earth, and We taken from You, or You from Us; therefore ever follow That which draws your Minds after Holineſs, and chuſe that good part, which can never be taken from You; ſo ſhall You excel in all Vertues, and anſwer our greateſt deſires for you.

THE Riches and Glory of this World I never ſought for You, nor my Self; but with carefulneſs, have ſought after an Inheritance in that *Kingdom* which is not of this World, for that cannot fade away. Often hath my Soul been, and is humble before the LORD, to conſider HIS manifold Mercies to Us; can it ever be forgotten how We were preſerved in the late great *Plague* and *Fire*! and Trials much greater then thoſe have I been carried through ſince; that I might be alſo proved in that which came neareſt to me, and ſeemed the hardeſt.

DEAR Childen, I your Mother, have tried many; and my love

love hath been in great Sincerity to Thoſe in whom I found Uprightneſs and Simplicity; even to Such was I made willing to give up my Self as a Servant, for their honeſties ſake; and with Them I walked in meekneſs and fear: But coming to be Try'd whether my Soul could cleave to the LORD only, then ſome began to limit my Conſcience to their apprehenſion and ſight; this I durſt not conſent to; but my cry was in ſecret, concerning Thoſe, that would be as Lords there, *O you Cruel Task-Maſters, will you not let me go to my FATHER?* For my Heart was fill'd with Pantings and Longings after the LORD, which conſtrain'd me to yield Obedience to what-ever I believed was HIS Will, who had been to me a mighty Deliverer in many Straits.

Children, in ſome part you have been Witneſſes how the love of my neareſt Friends (as well as others) have been turned into Evil ſurmiſings againſt me; and why was it? But becauſe I could not part with my Integrity; but rather than ſo, gave Cauſe to Thoſe, who judged by outward appearance, to take offence againſt me; but in all theſe things I appeal to HIM who hath known the ſecrets of my Heart, and hath ſeen the true Tenderneſs I have had towards Thoſe, who at the ſame time have writ and ſpoke bitter things againſt me. Whom have I wronged, or defrauded? Or againſt whom hath my Tongue dared to ſpeak lies? Not any that I know of. So Children, truſt you in the LORD only, and not in mortal Men; for they will fail you when the *Croſs* comes to be taken up to Your and Their Wills: and though this is ſet down for your warning; yet aſſuredly my love is to them all, and can ſay to ſuch, as *Joſeph* did to his Brethren; *Be not Grieved with your ſelves, though you Sold me hither*, for we were to be ſeparated.

Dear Children, Gather your Minds inwards; fear the LORD all your Days, and You ſhall receive HIS Reward, which hath been great to your Dear Mother.

A bſtain from all appearance of Evil.
B ear not Malice in your Hearts to any.
C arefully avoid giving Offence, either to Rich or Poor.
D iligently Watch over your Words and Thoughts.

E very Night Examine all Your Actions of the Day.
F ear the LORD, and ſubmit to Your Superiours.
G race in the Heart, Teacheth Your Duty to all.
H onour Your Parents, and be Kind to Your Relations.
J eer None, but Judge Your Selves.
K now this, That what you Sow you muſt Reap.
L ook at your own Faults and amend 'em.
M ercy is prepared for the Humble.
N ever ſlight the leaſt kindneſs from any.
O ver-Look Faults in others, rather then in your Selves.
P ray continually, that you may be kept out of Evil.
Q uarrel with None, either about things Spiritual or [Temporal.
R eſiſt Temptations when they firſt appear.
S eriouſly conſider, and often Ponder, how ſhort your [daies may be.
T urn your Minds Inward upon all Occaſions.
V ary not, but keep your Minds fix'd in Uprightneſs.
W hither canſt thou go to Proſper, if Integrity is departed from thee?
Y oung and Old, Prepare for Sufferings.
Z ealouſly preſs after a Holy Life, which having attain-[ed, nothing can come amiſs.

What the Effects are of Drinking Wine or Strong Drink.

IT Inflames the Blood, and brings divers Diſeaſes into the Body; it Weakens the Sight, filling the Head with Fumes and Vapours, and Shortens the Days of Many, and brings them to endleſs Torments; therefore all poſſible Care ought to be taken to avoid it. It keeps from all Seriouſneſs, makes them utter Vain and Fooliſh Words, that are not convenient, lifts up the Mind with Pride and Haughtineſs, makes them forget the Fear of their CREATOR, puts the Remembrance of Death far from them, and proves the Deſtruction of their Souls for ever, by their Diſobedience to the moſt High GOD, who is able to conſume and Blaſt them in a moment.

If any ſhall dare to dally with this, ſo Hainous a Sin, let the Puniſhment that is due to 'em for it, be upon their own Heads, for I am clear therein.

Dear Giles 5. *Auguſt* 74.

THAT true Love which yet remains in Us to Thee and Thy Wife, will ſtill be manifeſting it Self unto You; tho' nothing but the contrary be on Your Parts, that's little to Us, for its not our Selves we have ſought, or do ſeek, but the Everlaſting good of all, and that the Royal SEED might Reign in Its Dominion, for unto It our Souls are joyn'd, and for Its ſake, have our Lives been laid down; and into the narrow Path hath It Led Us, which You have judged the broad way; but well had it been for You to have been Still, and kept in your own Habitations; ſo might a true Diſcerning have been given to You; but You were too Raſh, and conſidered not deeply to underſtand thoſe things. Are You not Feeding on That which muſt Periſh, and Glorying in That which muſt Dye? Are Your Hearts ſingle indeed, to deſire that all may be Led by the Spirit of the LORD only, what Diſgrace ſoever it brings upon Themſelves or You? Or, would you not be honour'd before the People, rather then HE Obey'd? O what Enmity, Rage, and Fury have got up in You, againſt any who have been Led to Witneſs againſt Your outward Laws, *&c.* The LORD, whoſe only Right it is to Reign, will Viſit for theſe Things; Conſider wherein your Unity ſtands: Is it in ſetting the Captive at Liberty, or in oppreſſing the Poor? Is it in being Tender over thoſe that Fear to Offend; or in adding Sorrow to the Afflicted? Doth your Unity and Fellowſhip together keep you Low and Humble in your Minds? Or, doth It not Lift and Puff the Fleſhly part to Deſpiſe and Glory over others, whoſe Reſt cannot be taken up in any Viſible Thing; neither can Feed upon but that Living Bread, which the Hungry have long been ſeeking after? Ah Friends, When we are retired in our Minds, beholding the Vanity of all that's Mortal, a true Compaſſion is in our Hearts towards You; ſaying, *LORD bring Them Home to THEE, and Gather up THINE every where into THINE own Work, which no Viſible Eye beholds:* And as for us, HE hath ſaid, HE will keep Us to the End, and all who have Watch'd, or do Watch for Evil from Us, ſhall be diſappointed

ted, for HIS FEAR is placed in Us, which will preſerve the Simple; ſo we need no outward Comfort from any; keep but Faithful to HIM, and it's enough to us; for to Serve HIM, and not our Selves, were we Created.

Dear Friend, 8 *Auguſt* 74.

10. WHEN we Conſider the many Enemies, both within and without, that are this day Suffered to Tempt and Try, even all whoſe Hearts are ſet to Serve the LORD, we cannot but have a Tender Care one for another, leaſt thro' want of true Watchfulneſs, Darkneſs come over again; and the Lively Zeal, which once They had for Righteouſneſs, be turned into a Talk thereof, and the Thing it Self loſt: This is a time wherein all are to be throughly Try'd, that their Faith and Patience in reſiſting the Enemy, and alſo Their true Love in cleaving to the LORD above all, may be Known, and manifeſtly Seen. We knowing theſe Things, cannot but put Thee in Mind, as well as our Selves, to be always Watching, that We may be counted Worthy to eſcape all thoſe Things, which will Enſnare the Careleſs, and Earthly minded, but in the Stillneſs HIS Voice is heard, which calls out of the many Words, and many Things, into the *One Thing*, which is abſolutely Needful, where the Souls of the Upright are Fed and Suſtain'd in this Evil Day; their Bread is ſure, which none can Feed upon but the *Pure* in Heart; let their Profeſſion be never ſo High, and their Wiſdom of Words never ſo Excellent. Dear Friend, Sink down Low in thy Mind, that Thou may'ſt behold not only the Work of GOD in Thy own Soul, and Bleſs HIS NAME becauſe thereof, but alſo the Work HE is doing in the Earth; how HE will abaſe the Proud, and bring down the Lofty; how HE will raiſe up the Poor, lift up the Afflicted, and cauſe the Meek to Rejoyce; ſo that to be Revil'd is little to be heeded, the hurt is Their own; They can neither add, nor diminiſh to our State, but great ought our Care to be, to ſtand approv'd in HIS Sight, who beholds the Heart.

She Writ this to Her Daughter-in-Law.

Dear Child, 11 *Octo.* 75.

11 I CANNOT but often Remember Thee with a great deſire that Thou may'ſt be ſo preſerved out of Evil, as to be a good Example to all wherever Thou com'ſt; let Meekneſs, Humility, and Self-denial grow up in Thee, that Thou may'ſt anſwer the End, for which Thou waſt Born? Was it not to Glorifie Thy CREATOR? I Hope in ſome Meaſure Thou underſtands, of how much greater Value Thy Soul is than Thy Body: Convenient Care may be had to keep the Out-ſide in Decency; but a blameleſs Innocent Converſation, is that which makes Beautiful indeed, and the Fear of the LORD Teacheth Wiſdom, and makes Honourable beyond all Earthly Glory: I have often ſaid, *O my Soul, take Thou no ſhare of this Worlds Glory, for in a moment It Periſheth*; but this was My Cry Earneſtly, (in days paſt) *O LORD Poſſeſs my Heart with THY Fear.* This, Dear Child, have I choſen as my chiefeſt Treaſure, and my greateſt Delight, and cannot but Long to have Thee one with me herein; a Watch muſt be kept over Thy own Heart daily, elſe all the good Example Thou haſt before Thine Eyes, can take little place in Thee; ſometimes I have good hope for Thee, that Thou wilt follow the Steps of Thy Father, whoſe Eye is to the recompence of Reward, and therefore chooſes rather to Suffer Reproach, then to Enjoy the Pleaſures of Sin for a Seaſon. Our hearty Deſires are to the LORD for Thy good, for Thou art Dear to Us.

Dear Friend, Mrs. E. E. London 12 *Nov.* 78.

12 I AM not yet reſtor'd to My former Health, but have ſtill much Weakneſs, and alſo great Pains at times, which I am to bear in Stillneſs, and without much Complaint; for I am well aſſured the good Hand of my GOD is in it, and I was never better Content than now; but neither Writing, nor much Speaking, is at all Pleaſant to Me; for the Day is over and gone, that thoſe things can much avail, yet the true Love I have for Thee, and the Deſire I have for Thy Everlaſting Good, makes me willing to let Thee hear from us ſometimes. There is an *Ark* which is Inviſible,

ble, prepared for the Souls of the Righteous, which is the only place of Safety, and I know none elſe, neither ſeek I after any other? What's the Chaff to the Wheat? How Uncertain and Unprofitable are all Viſible Things, to that which is Inviſible? But this none can underſtand, but thoſe who make it their Work to have their Minds exerciſed continually in the Law of the LORD; This is more then all Words.

Dear Friends, Mr. and Mrs. Mud, 5 *Aug.* 79

13 WE are ſupported by that HAND which Comforts the Comfortleſs, and gives Strength to the Weak, and raiſes our Souls into a Higher Manſion, then the Men of this World can ſee, and for the Joy that is ſet before Us, we have endured the *Croſs*, and Deſpiſed the Shame, for which a Crown of Glory is reſerved; and I am perſwaded, that no Tribulation, nor any Earthly thing whatſoever, ſhall be able to draw us aſide from that Intire Love we have to Righteouſneſs, and to the Glory of HIM who is the AUTHOR of it.

Dear Friend Mrs. E. E. 18 *Septem.* 79

14 I RECEIVED Thine, and becauſe of Thy great Deſire to hear from me, I am willing even to force my Self to Write, for there is a Deadneſs to me, as to Writing, or to be Employ'd in any thing which adds no Vertue, Life, or Refreſhment to my inward Man: If all the Earth ſhould take up their Reſt in Viſible Things, whatever they be, What is that to me? For my Hunger is after the true *Bread*, which I do believe ſhall be ſatisfied to the full; and alſo the Way is making for that Glory to appear, which the *Upright* have Long'd to ſee: *Happy are They that are not Cumbring themſelves!* My Soul is Grieved, when I conſider what great Profeſſion hath been made theſe many years of Serving the LORD, and how little Zeal for Purity, and Cleanneſs of Life, is now to be found, makes me Value little any Outward Profeſſion, or Talk of Righteouſneſs, for it is only the Doers thereof that will be Preſerv'd and Kept in this Evil time? If Thou art ſenſible what an Hour

of Temptation is come upon all the World, to Try them that Live therein: Thou wilt then find the Work of a true Christian to be Weighty and Ponderous, and requires Retirement and Seriousness; all Outward Performances may be done with Ease; but to Live in the Daily *Cross* to our own Wills, is that which is required, and by which Strength comes to be added.

Another Letter to the same Person, 28 *Octo.* 1679.

15 IF I should be speaking of Holy and Excellent Things all the day long, and not have Rule over my own Spirit and Thoughts, to know them Subjected to the WILL of the ALMIGHTY, it would avail me nothing: And if by HIM I am Commanded into Silence or Words, *Happy am I*, if I be found Obedient; for I must say, *Who Teacheth like HIM?* I Pray Thee, above all Things mind HIS Teachings and be Faithful; so wilt Thou know what it is to take up the Daily *Cross* to Thy own Will, and to be a Conqueror over it, which will Cause more true Inward Joy, then many Hours Outward Performances; but as to those Things, I shall leave every one to do as They are perswaded, only with *Caleb* and *Joshua*, let me follow the LORD fully, whatsoever Mountains may seem to stand in the Way. I could say much concerning that wonderful Hand of Providence, that is with Us both Inwardly and Outwardly, but the Consideration thereof, makes me rather to Admire then Speak. Sure I am, our Engagements are great to Walk before HIM (who is the AUTHOR of all our Good) with perfect Hearts all our Days.

Dear G. 27 *Novem.* 79.

16 WHEN I consider in what Cleanness of Mind and Integrity of Heart, our Loves were so intire to each other, [and that for Righteousness sake only] and how wide the Breach of late hath been, it makes me to say, *Which of Us Two have Sinned?* Surely whilst some have Slept the Enemy hath Sown Tares, but now it is high time to Awake, and a deep search to be made, whether it hath been

real

real Subſtance, or empty Shadows we have Contended for; which of Us Two have been the moſt ſingle-Hearted in that one Deſire, that the Spirit of the LORD might only Rule and Reign? Had it been ſo with Us both, the Love that was ſo rightly grounded, could not have been Deſtroyed and Eaten out; yet I can ſay mine hath remain'd Stedfaſt to Thee in all this time of Temptation; tho', I confeſs, I have abhor'd that Phariſaical Spirit, which hath ſought and lov'd the Praiſe of Men; for I have been well aſſured, that was not Right, which could be ſo Rigid for an Outward Form or Shadow; well might their Eyes be blinded, who have made thoſe Outward Things their Rule to Judge by: Away, away, ſaith my Soul, with your Idols, for they never make the Comers thereunto Perfect, but have encreaſed to more Ungodlineſs, and Strengthen'd the Hands of many in Evil doing; a ſore Lamentation may be taken up for many of You, whoſe Fiery Zeal have Deſtroyed the Simplicity, and run You into Confuſion and Darkneſs. Ah, my Dear Friend! How my Soul Breathes unto the LORD for Thee as in days paſt, that Thou may'ſt be one of thoſe Living Stones wherewith HIS Houſe muſt be Built; the Foundation is Laying, and the Stones Fitting and Preparing, the Building muſt go on, no Contention or Troubles without, ſhall be able to hinder it: O why ſhould not all that have any Sincerity, ſet their Hands and Hearts with all their Might to this Work, tho' it coſt more Care and Diligence then all Outward Profeſſion hath done, which in it's time was Good. But now all Images muſt down, being of no Value, neither can they deliver in this Great and Terrible Day of the ALMIGHTY. That both Thee and We may be found Faithful therein, even to the End, is the Deſire of Thy true and real Friend,

My very Dear Friend Mrs. E. 22 *Decem.* 80.

17 IF any ſmall Comfort may be added to Thee by my Writing, I am willing to do it, as oft as I can conveniently; tho' the true Comfort, and all real Joy muſt be found within, for all without, I do aſſure Thee, have Mixtures, and are not Laſting. What Labour and Pains have

many of Us taken in Outward Worſhips, and Bodily Exerciſe to obtain Peace and Reſt to our Souls, and there was a time when all this gave good ſatisfaction: But alas, it's much laid aſide, and of little or no uſe. What muſt We then do? Or where muſt We now ſeek for that Everlaſting Reſt, without which, no ſatisfaction can ever be had? The Spiritual Worſhip muſt not be neglected, but performed with greater Diligence, Integrity, and ſingleneſs of Heart, then ever the Outward Worſhip could be, becauſe in this there is not the leaſt Praiſe of Men, but the contrary; neither can We herein Praiſe our Selves, but wholly lay Self aſide: When the Mind is truly given up to the LORD in retiredneſs, and HIS Preſence alſo with Us, then is that refreſhing which is durable felt, and that Food known that Feeds the Hungry Soul; and thus is the Diſpenſation, or Manifeſtation changed. Shall not all We who were Faithful in the former, be much More Faithful in the Latter? How ſhall the right Heirs of Salvation be known, but by the Delighting to dwell where their Inheritance is? And for my part, I do now Account the beſt of all Outward Offerings and Sacrifices, but Droſs and Dung, in compariſon of this coming into the Holieſt of all, where all is Offered up, even Body, Soul, and Spirit, Mind, Will and Affections, the Creature Emptying it ſelf of all Corruptible Things, that it might be filled with That which is Incorruptible: Thus am I made in plainneſs to open my Self to Thee, my Dear Friend, and to commit Thee to HIM, from Whom alone I wait for all Good, and who doth ſufficiently Reward all the Upright, tho' their Trials may be great.

To the ſame Perſon, viz. 1681.

18 WE Receiv'd Thine, and not without a Senſe of Thy preſent Condition; but how to be a Help, Strength and Comfort to Thee therein, ſo as to bring Thy Mind into Reſt, Quietneſs, and Peace, I muſt needs Confeſs is not in our Power; the Time being come, that every One muſt deliver their Own Souls, or Periſh; Eat Bread in their Own Houſes, or Starve; Worſhip in the Place appointed, or be Rejected; for ſuch

ſuch an *Hour* of Tryal is indeed come, and yet coming upon all Fleſh, that the very ſight thereof makes Me Fear to be one Moment from That which only can preſerve; and that is the Gift of GOD in the Heart, which brings the Soul into Fellowſhip with HIMSELF; But this is not found without great Care and Diligence; for the Sluggard will be ſeen Cloath'd with Rags, but the Soul of the diligent will greatly Proſper. Let not this Fiery Tryal ſeem a ſtrange thing to Thee, neither do Thou ſtart aſide therein; is it not Juſt and Equal, that We who have long made Profeſſion of the Name of the MoſtHIGH, ſhould now be Try'd, and made Manifeſt, whether Our Inſides be the ſame We have appeared Outwardly? And whether Our Faith be ſo True, and Our Love ſo Strong, that no Tryal of what kind ſoever, can ſhake the one, or weaken the other? I muſt forbear, for Words avail but little, there is an Emptineſs in 'em all, let Us keep out of Thoughts that profit not, and preſs into that KINGDOM which hath no End.

My Dear Friend, *June* 7. 1681.

19 THIS Requeſt I have to Thee, that at all Times, and in all Places, Thy Mind be kept with the LORD, for from HIM alone, muſt we wait to receive inward Strength, elſe ſhall we never obtain it; HE is that one SHEPHERD who now calls all HIS into his own *Fold*, there to be Fed, Refreſh'd, and Comforted; and as we keep within, and abide there, we ſhall be preſerved from the Snares and Temptations, in which ſo many are taken. Therefore as for our Lives, let a Watch be kept over our Minds and Thoughts, that all be brought into Subjection to HIM, to Whom We muſt give an Account for our Time ſpent in this World. So that after all My Zealous Performances of outward Worſhips (which were good in their Place) here am I brought to Center at laſt, even in Secret, when and where no Mortal Eye beholds Me, to offer up unto the LORD a broken and contrite Spirit, which He doth and will accept more than all outward Offerings and Sacrifices: HE is now feeding the Hungry with good things, and giving Food to the Sheep of HIS own Paſture; HE is drawing the Souls of the

the Upright exceedingly to Love HIM, and to forſake all other Lovers that would in the leaſt take any part from HIM HE is ſhewing the Way, into the Holieſt of all, where the Thirſty Drink, and are Satisfied, having need of no other Rivers than what proceeds from HIS Fountain.

Theſe Things I have Learn'd, and am a Witneſs of, and Love conſtrains me to Impart the ſame to Thee. Our Time now grows ſo ſhort, that It had need be Improv'd to the beſt Advantage; which that both Thee and I may do, is the deſire of thy real Friend.

Dear Brother. 1681.

20 WE have been much in the Countrey this Summer, and have found the Benefit of ſtilneſs and retiredneſs; We came Home laſt Week, ſince which time my Husband hath had much concern upon his Mind, and greatly exerciſed, as he hath often been, for the Iniquity of that People, whom He once ſo Dearly Loved: He intends to give you an Account thereof ſhortly; for my own part I am ſtill as to Them; but what my Tryal and Exerciſe hath been by his Suffering for, and by them, none hath underſtood; for his Body hath often been brought ſo weak, & low, at ſuch times, as if Death muſt immediately have ſeized upon it; and then hath My Faith been Tryed, and the LORD my GOD, hath even at that Seaſon made It Strong, and hath made me to know the great Reward of doing HIS Will; ſo that I could not be afraid; and I have a true and ſecret rejoycing in the Mercy, Care, and good Hand of Providence that is over Us, and we ſhall live to Praiſe HIM; as others ſhall for HIS Mercy to us, when we ſhall be no more; and Bleſſed are they who not only Fear HIM, but put their whole Truſt in HIM, and when the Foundations of the Earth ſhake, which muſt be, yet there is a Rock and Shelter in which the Humble and Upright ſhall be Safe.

4 *July* 1684.

21 I DESIRE all my Friends, not to be Careleſs, nor to be Intangled in any Worldy Affair; but with all readineſs to be prepared for the receiving thoſe joyful Tydings of

Come

Come you Bleſſed of my FATHER, Inherit thoſe good Things prepared for You. But truly there muſt be a Faithfulneſs even unto Death, if ever we receive the Crown of Life; there muſt be a Purity and Cleanneſs of Mind, and a ſenſible Emptineſs, before we can be filled; *Happy are They who above all Things make it their Work to be Humble, Prepared and fitted to Receive the* New Name & White Stone, which is to be given to thoſe who have ſo ſought after It, as to abhor all things in compariſon of it; if the Riches of the World, or Glory thereof, have Offer'd themſelves, they have been Contemned; if the empty Husk and outward Show of Religion, Tempted, it hath not been deſired; if any Careleſneſs have got up, it hath coſt deep Sorrow, but the Upright Soul hath choſen it's MAKER for its Husband, whoſe Preſence it hath Infinitely priz'd, and for whoſe Abſence it hath greatly Mourned.

My Dear Friend, Part not with HIM for all the Treaſures of this World, but if any Loſs hath been, ſeek again the Bleſſing both with Tears, and with Obedience, cry mightily for it, and let us be concern'd for one another; let Brotherly Love continue, that in the Strength of the ALMIGHTY, we may ſtand againſt all the Aſſaults of the Enemy, in our own particulars: The time is now to reſiſt Sin in every Appearance of it, or elſe I do ſee it will prevail; for ſuch a Power of Darkneſs hath Entred, that it is very hard to know our Selves, and what Condition we are in, therefore very liable to Err and go aſtray; my Hearts deſire is for your Preſervation, and that Sincerity may increaſe amongſt all the Upright; ſo ſhall we be a Strength to each other, and we ſhall find a ſure hiding Place in all Troubles, which tho' they may be many, yet a Time of Deliverance will come out of them all, if the Faith be kept. I am

Your truly Loving Friend.

1ſt Decem. 1685.

22 THERE is a Clean Way and Self-denying Path, in which all the Holy Men have Walked, *Happy art Thou, my Dear Child*, if Thou ſtedfaſtly purpoſe in Thy Heart to Walk

Walk therein, that the ſame Character may be given of Thee, as was of *Job*, *A Man fearing GOD, and Eſchewing Evil.* Many are the Snares and Temptations of the World, to draw the Creature from the pure Law, Written in the *H*eart, yet it conſents to no defilement, but ſtands there as a Faithful Witneſs againſt all manner of tranſgreſſion; whoſo rebells againſt it, and ſlights the reproof of it, Sinneth againſt his own Soul, and the LORD who Loves Righteouſneſs, and *H*ates Wickedneſs, hath no Pleaſure in him.

If there be the leaſt giving way to do Evil, tho' with that fair pretence that good may come thereon; then I do ſay, That a little Leaven will Leaven the whole Lump, and then it coſts more deep Sorrow than if it had been reſiſted at firſt; for a Temptation is no Sin to me, until I joyn with it; but Wo will be to Me, if I give way in any thing to the Enemy of my Souls Peace; for what can it profit me to gain this whole World, with the loſs of my own Soul?

Dear Child, the Lord of HIS Infinite Mercy, has Implanted in thy very Nature, Innocency, *H*oneſty, and Simplicity beyond many; therefore I do aſſure Thee much will be required of thee; yea more than of thoſe, who are more naturally prone to Evil, if Thou ſhould'ſt take that Liberty, which Others, by the Strength of Their Own Evil Nature, have been Enticed to; it was but Juſt for the LORD to forſake Thee, and give Thee up to thy utter Ruine; but theſe are but Cautions, for I am perſwaded that Thy tenderneſs of Conſcience, and the Fear of the LORD in thy *H*eart, will preſerve Thee from being overcome of Evil, and will keep Thee Watchful, which is the hearty Prayers of Thy Dear and Careful Mother.

O My Dear Children. 13 *April* 1688.

23 A Great Suffering is upon me this Morning, for every one of you, leaſt the Fear and Dread of the ALMIGHTY ſhould not be in your *H*earts as it ought to be; for We of all the Families of the Earth, hath HE choſen to ſerve HIM; but if We ſerve other GODS (even the Inclinations and Luſts of Our own *H*earts) We ſhall be ſure not to go unpuniſh'd; therefore I even Beſeech You all, to Walk circumſpectly,

Circumſpectly, not as Fools but as Wiſe, Redeeming Your time, which may be but ſhort; therefore Watch well over your Words: and let them be few, for much Speech brings into Lightneſs of Mind. My Dear Children, prize Time while you have it, and keep clear from all Iniquity in Words, Thoughts, and Actions, for as one of the Poor *Heathens* ſaid, *The Weight of Sin was the Heavieſt Load in the World*, which will be found true; therefore, in Dear Love to Your Souls, I warn you to avoid it, keep in ſtilneſs that you may diſcover all Sin in its firſt Appearance, and get Power over it: Being greatly concerned in my Mind for you all, more than I can Expreſs, could not but Write to clear my Conſcience, and could rather Weep out the reſt of My Days, than You ſhould follow the Vanity and Wickedneſs of this Generation; and tho' what I Write may take little Place with you, for the preſent, yet the time will come, when You may Remember, that I have ever been, and ſtill am

Your Faithful, True, and Loving Mother.

December 7 1689

24 DEAR Friend and Fellow Traveller towards the Land of Reſt, not as if We had attain'd, or were already perfect, but we muſt preſs forward, towards the Mark of the Price of the High Calling of GOD in *Chriſt Jeſus* Our LORD, in whom acceptance is felt, tho' many Weakneſſes attend, and ſore Temptations beſet, which We are not to heed ſo much as to hinder Our Still and Quiet waiting for That Power which gives the Victory over Them. The Bleſſing is to the Poor in Spirit; happy are We, if We be found in that State; it's the Mourners that ſhall be Comforted, and the Poor *Publican* accepted, when the high Boaſter and confident Talker, ſhall be Rejected. If we keep but Humble, Watchful, and Retired in our Minds, that Faith will be given us, which ſhall remove Mountains, and quench all the Fiery darts of the Enemy of our Souls, but the appoinpointed ſeaſon We muſt wait for; yet not to Sorrow as they that are without Hope, ever truſting in HIM that came to *Deliver them who through Fear of Death, were all their Lifetime Subject to Bondage.* Much might be ſaid that is Witneſſed,

neſſed, concerning the Long Suffering, great Patience, and Loving Kindneſs of the LORD to Us, in this Hour of Temptation, and Power of Darkneſs, that is ſuffered to prevail. But it is not a Day for Words to avail much, therefore may conclude and ſay, The GOD, whom I deſire to ſerve with my whole Heart, give you that comfort, and true Satisfaction in HIMSELF, that no Wile of Satan may ever be able to deprive you of. Say to the fearful Heart, Be ſtrong, HE whom you ſeek will appear. It is the Joy of my Soul to hear of any that are Hungring and Thirſting after Righteouſneſs with ſuch I am one, and a dear Love is in my Heart to you at this time, tho' unknown by outward ſight.

A Call to all the Sincere Upright Hearted, to come in, unto the Solemn Aſſembly, to Worſhip the Great CREATOR of Heaven and Earth, in the Way which HE hath appointed, which is the Inward and Spiritual Worſhip.

25 GRACE, Mercy and Peace, is freely Offer'd to all that will receive it: Every one that Thirſteth may Drink at the Fountain of the Water of Life: The Star hath appeared to Guide to the Place where the Birth may be found that brings the Joyful Tydings to the Soul; for which continual Praiſes are offer'd up in Secret; and the Traſh of this World Deſpiſed, and the Glory of Outward Fellowſhip's Forſaken, becauſe That which we ſought for therein is found, and the Glory of this Latter Houſe, will far Tranſcend the Glory of the Former; the Former had in its Day a great Beauty without; but this hath the Excellency within: Whoſo is Wiſe will now ſeek after the LORD whilſt HE may be Found, and Prize above all things HIS Loving Kindneſs in manifeſting HIMSELF to thoſe that diligently ſeek HIM. Tho' the *Croſs* (to the Outward Man) be call'd for to keep in, yet, the Inward Man is thereby reviv'd and ſtrengthned.

WHO ever is come to the firſt, and Bleſſed Reſurrection; cannot but Deſpiſe and Trample upon the Riches and Glory of this World in compariſon thereof? Theſe are the truly Wiſe in Heart, who ſhall be Clothed with Righteouſneſs, but the Nakedneſs of the Slothful ſhall appear.

ROUZE

ROUZE up ye Holy Plants, who Wither not, but are kept alive? The Rock of Your Salvation is near You, HIS tender Compaſſion is felt, which exceedingly draws the Love after HIM, and Leſſens it to all Created Things.

BOTH Outward, and Inward Retirement is of abſolute Neceſſity this Day; for the call is to the Inward Work, and the Sacrifice that is now accepted, is the Humble and Contrite Heart. The true Satisfaction is found within, and no where elſe: So let all be Content to be Deſpiſed and Spoken againſt, by thoſe that know not this Heavenly Power working in Them: It's a hidden Myſtery to all ſuch as are Cumbred with Earthly Things; but the Upright hath choſen it to be their Portion forever.

THE true Worſhippers of the LORD are call'd to Worſhip HIM in the Spirit, for to HIM ſhall the Gathering be, HIS Soul Loaths the Treachery of Man; therefore is HE ſtaining the Glory of all Fleſh, that no Excellency but in HIM may appear to HIS Children, where alone, and not in any Viſible thing, ſhall their Reſt and true Contentment be, their Love to each other in Righteouſneſs, ſhall ſtand and endure, when all that came by outward Sight, or Ear, ſhall fail: What hath all Outward Gathering been for, but to ſtir up one another with Fervent Love to ſerve the LORD with Pure and Clean Hearts, which HE that Created can only make clean; but who can believe and truſt in HIM alone, for this Work? That mind in any that's without and Abroad, will be deſiring Outward Helps and Shelters, but they who can ſay as *Job* did, *I know that my Redeemer Liveth*, will be Content tho' HE ſtrip Them of all, ſo they may Enjoy HIS Preſence inſtead thereof; the many Lovers muſt be laid aſide, by thoſe that have choſen HIM to be their Head and Husband, then their cry will be, *Who Teacheth like HIM?* And as all are kept waiting on HIM alone, to be Cleanſed from all their Secret Sins, their true Unity, Love and Fellowſhip to each other, will Encreaſe and ſtand, when all that have been made of any outward thing ſhall decay & be broken. It's hard indeed to Fleſh & Blood, which loves not to keep in the Daily Croſs, to come wholly into that Worſhip, for which they can expect no outward

Eſteem

Esteem amongst Men; for that which is Inward, is known only to the LORD, who rewards in secret, and feeds with
9 Bread of Life; the true *Hungerers*, Thirsters, and Mourners after this Bread, shall have no reason to complain.

MANY have been long feeding upon *Husks*, but now They are denied to be given Them; therefore whither must they go, but to the *FATHERS House*, where Bread instead of *Husks* (upon Repentance and *Humiliation*) may be obtain'd? And this is the Love of GOD to every *Hungry* Soul, to deprive them of the one, that they may seek after the other.

GREAT Satisfaction has been plac'd in being Members of Churches Outwardly; but now let every one seek only to be a Member of that Invisible Church, whereof CHRIST JESUS is the *Head*; but these must be purified and cleansed, for no false-hearted *Hypocrite* can be added to this Church, as they have been to those Visibly Gathered. *Holy*, Righteous, Just and True is the LORD in Suffering *Havock* to be made of all the Outward Gatherings, for they gathered not together in HIS Name and Power, but in a Formal, Customary and Self-Conceitedness, Hating and Despising one another; but now being scattered upon the Barren Mountains all must seek for Rest for their Souls, in Wisdom, Patience, and Silence; having the Mind kept inward to hear the Voice of the true SHEPHERD and in all faithfulness to obey it.

THE Mystery of Godliness, is to be known within, and Mystery of *Babylon* the Great, the Mother of *Harlots* is to
10 searched out, and discerned Within, and every one is now to hasten out of it, as *Lot* was hasten'd out of *Sodom*, for it's no outward Ceremony will at all avail.

10 *August* 1690.

26 I AM called to cease from Man, whose Breath is in his Nostrils; the LORD is now become my Teacher, who Pitieth the Poor and Instructs the Simple; HE Wounds, and HE *Heals*, HE is the true PHISITIAN both for Soul and Body, by giving diligent attention to HIM, Wisdom, Life, and Vertue are receiv'd, more than by all the Teachings of Men;

Men; By *HIM* the Heart is ſearched, and every Thought thereof made manifeſt; Let *HIS* Power alone be Magnify'd for ever, ſaith My Soul.

1690.

27 IN the Year 1662 *I* was a Widow, having three Children *viz.* two Sons and a Daughter, whom I Faithfully and Honeſtly took pains to bring up, & provide for; but my endeavour was above all, that the Fear of the LORD might be always in Their Hearts; in all this I greatly Proſpered, beyond many others; for when They were Young, I knew no Children beyond Them, for Sobriety, Honeſty, and Plainheartedneſs, and even without Guile; but when they grew into Years, and that I put my two Sons out Apprentices from me into the wide World, alas! they were quickly changed, they ſoon forgot the great and wonderous Works of the LORD, which *HE* had wrought for Us, and turned aſide into the Broad Way that brings to Death and Darkneſs, becoming Vain in their imaginations, ſo that they were even as Strangers to me, for my true Comfort in them was Loſt, and how to help it, was not at the preſent in my Power, ſo I was to bear it patiently; tho' not without great Grief and Sorrow of Heart, for it became my Shame and my Reproach; then in the Bitterneſs of my Soul, *I* cryed Night and Day unto the *LORD*, to bring them back again into the Strait and Narrow Way that leads to Life. Yea, in ſecret have *I* cry'd for Them, with a Lamentable Cry, even as was for *Daniel*, when he was in the Lions Den, that the *LORD* would bring them forth to Praiſe *HIS* Name, and reſtore my Children to me again: All this time Faith wrought in me for Them, that as the Prodigal return'd, ſo ſhould They, and that the Bleſſing of the *GOD* of their Fathers, ſhould never be taken wholly from them, altho' for a time the *LORD* left them, that they might ſee the Evil of their own Hearts, and always put their truſt in *HIM*, and not in any Man.

I muſt needs ſay, my Dear Children has had very great Temptations; for when they looked out at thoſe who they judged to be the beſt of all People, *viz.* the *Quakers*, and ſaw

ſuch Evil Fruits brought forth amongſt Them, as Pride of Heart, Wrath, Malice, Bitterneſs of Spirit, Lying, Deceit, and Falſhood, *&c. I* ſay theſe things, made them become more indifferent in matters of Religion, and drew them out from Serioufneſs, whereby they were greatly hurt. But the *GOD* of wonderful Compaſſion is, I truſt, bringing them home to *HIMSELF*, into whoſe Tender Care *I* Commit them; believing, that whether *I* Live or Dye, they ſhall never be wholly forſaken, nor left in any Evil way; ſo that *I* am much at reſt concerning them, and ſhall never ceaſe Faithfully to Watch over them, for the good of their Souls, whilſt I am their Dear Mother.

THEIR Bleſſing or their Curſe, depends upon their Sober Lives, and Blameleſs Converſations, with their true Repentance for what is paſt, and full Reſolution of Amendment.

Dear Friend,

28 MY Sufferings have been great and hard, to the Natural part to bear, yet much might be ſaid of the Love, Mercy, and Goodneſs of *GOD* to me therein; it hath been more than ever my Tongue could declare, but *I* truſt never to forget it, nor to ſtart aſide into any thing that may hinder the faſt binding and knitting of my Soul unto *HIM* and to *HIS* pure Law in my Heart, which to give due heed thereto, *I* find more Benefit than in all Words. And this *I* have alſo Learn'd, that there muſt a Dying daily to all Mortal things, that the Inheritance may be receiv'd which never fades away. My Dear Friend, thou can'ſt never be Heir of two Kingdoms; neither ſeek ſo much to know more, as to be obedient to what thou do'ſt know; my Heart truly deſires thy everlaſting good.

Dear Friend,

29 IN thy ſolitary Condition, we deſire to be often with thee; for it's better to be in the Houſe of Mourning, than in the Houſe of Laughter: This have *I* Witneſſed, and when the LORD hath been pleas'd to Reveal *HIMSELF* to me, it hath been when my Mind hath been moſt weighty; therefore I deſire as much as in me lyes to be always

ſo

ſo kept; for the ponderous Mind gathers in, but the contrary ſcatters abroad. *I* pray thee keep as much out of thoughts as may be, and rather reſign up thy ſelf to *HIM* who hath Power to ſtill the raging of the Sea, and endeavour above all things to know what *HIS* Will is concerning thee, leſt thou be called out of this World before thou art prepared to leave it: The Snuff of our Candle is now but ſhort, we are haſtening homeward, and bidding adieu to this uncertain and troubleſome World; if we be not yet Crucify'd to it, *I* hope we ſhall be. Many Changes have we known therein, ſince we have been acquainted. We have been many years ſeeking after, and Longing for that which might ſasisfy our Hungry and Thirſty Souls, and if we find *IT* and enjoy *IT* in our old Age, ſhall we not rejoice therein together, and bear patiently what the *ALMIGHTY* ſees beſt to bring upon us?

My Dear Friend,

30 WHEN I conſider the various Afflictions that attend this Life, then Wiſdom teacheth me to ſeek after ſomething that is more durable, and which may affect My Heart, and rejoice My Soul, more than any thing of this World can do: I have largely ſeen the Emptineſs and Uncertainty even of the beſt of Viſible things, and then have I cryed, *LORD, for Thy Mercies ſake, let me alſo ſee the Worth and Excellency of that Glory of THINE, which is everlaſting, and which makes the Soul of THINE to Rejoice ſecretly, in the very bittereſt Afflictions.* Something of which I feel as I am Writing to thee, with earneſt Deſire, that thou, my Dear Friend, mayſt be partaker with me therein.

7 October 1691.

31 BLESSED and Happy are all they, who, when the Chaſtiſeing Hand of the *ALMIGHTY* is upon them, keep in Patience and Reſignedneſs to *HIS* Will; not daring to look out for Remedy until they firſt ask Council of *HIM*, who Created the Heavens and the Earth, and Ordereth all things therein as *HE* pleaſeth

IF Thy Affliction be Sickneſs, Pain, or any Exerciſe up-

on the Body; let Thy Mind first be fixed to know the Cause, and then what outward Means, or whether any at all, are to be used; and as *HE* shall direct, be Faithful and Obedient; looking to *HIM* alone, chooſing nothing but what *HE* Orders, leſt Thou be like the *Fool*, that ſays in His Heart, *There is no GOD.* But they that truſt in *HIM*, have found *HIM* a mighty Deliverer in all Tryals.

IF thy Exerciſe be loſs of Riches, murmur not; for true Happineſs conſiſts not in thoſe outward things; the Honeſt-hearted have not their Treaſure in them, for they cannot give one Moments Peace of Conſcience, in a Time of Tryal; therefore let *HIS* Hand of Providence, that gave Them, take Them away as *HE* Pleaſes: Be ſure that the Mind be brought low, under the loſs of Them, and then it is all one, whether Riches or Poverty.

IF thy Tryal be the Loſs of near Relations; Let Thy Comfort be plac'd in *HIM*, who ſaid, *They are my Brother, Siſter, and Mother, that does the Will of my FATHER.*

IT is not good that Afflictions, of what kind ſoever They are, be paſſed lightly over; but We ought to mind that *HAND* from whence they come, and the End for which any are ſent; that ſo we may reap ſome Benefit by it, as I at this time, thro' great Mercy have done.

20 *October* 1691

32 O WHY are We not come to that even Temper at all times as not to be much lift up, nor much caſt down by any thing We meet withal in this World, becauſe all things here are Uncertain and Periſhing?

WHY keep we not in the Fear of the Living GOD continually, that all our Words and Thoughts may be Subjected to *HIM*, then may we hear HIS Voice that calls all the day long, into Heavenly Mindedneſs, and teacheth how to Order all our Affairs inwardly and outwardly?

O my GOD Teach me how to Meditate in THY Law, both Night and Day, for therein is my delight.

Dear

Dear Friend,

33 THE great Myſtery of the Kingdom of Heaven, I do Believe, is Revealing to Thoſe who have truly Longed after It, and have been willing to part with all for Its Sake: Theſe ſhall Feed upon the true Bread, and be ſatisfied, when others are Contending for, and ſeeking after the Husks, which can never Profit. Truly Friends, if Love did not conſtrain me to Write to one or other, whom I think might be Refreſhed to hear from Us; I ſhould wholly forbear, for the Frame of my Mind is moſt bent to keep with, and liſten after that ſmall *Still Voice*, which is known to be a more True and Faithful Inſtructor, then all Outward Teachers are; therefore let the Solitary Soul return thither, even to its own BELOVED, who Feeds the Hungry with good Things, and gives Reſt to the Weary and heavy Laden.

Our Dear Friend,

34 WHOM we often remember with moſt endeared Love, and had we any thing more than only Affectionate Love to draw Us, we ſhould come on purpoſe to *Lincoln* to See you; but unleſs the Spirit of Truth lead Us thereto, we cannot expect That Inward Bleſſing which is more deſireable than Outward Sight. Your Letters are Refreſhing and Comfortable to Us all, who are waiting and longing to ſee the Life of Righteouſneſs brought forth in our Selves and Others. Never did the Hart pant more after the Water Brooks, than our Souls do after the Living GOD. It is a Day wherin many are departed from *HIM*; even ſo much the more, let our Hearts be fill'd with Fervent Zeal for the Glory of HIS Name.

June 1692.

35 IT was my Lot to hear theſe ſeveral Texts Preach'd on, which I took as a ſpecial Hand of Providence to me, *viz.*

1. *I Intreated THY Favour with my whole Heart.* This have I done.

2. *Put Thy Truſt in the LORD, and HE ſhall bring it to Paſs.* Herein is my Hope.

3. *BY HIS Stripes We were Healed.* Which has been my great Support.

4. *EYE hath not Seen, nor Ear Heard, neither hath it entred into the Heart of Man, to Conceive the Things that GOD hath Prepared for thoſe that Love HIM.* Herein has been my Secret Comfort in the Diſtreſſes I have in this Life.

5. *BUT as for Me, my Prayer is unto Thee, O LORD, in an acceptable time*, Pſal. LXIX 13. Even at this time great Mercy is ſhew'd to me.

AND I am a True Witneſs, that the Mercy I have obtain'd, is thro' the Death and Sufferings of my LORD and SAVIOUR CHRIST JESUS, whoſe Power is now known to Reſcue the Soul from the Power of Sin, that hath Reign'd in the Mortal Body; *Praiſes, Praiſes, be given to HIM for evermore, Amen.*

THE many Tryals and Temptations that I have paſſed thro', cannot be related; but a Secret Hand of Providence hath preſerved me thro' all; ſo let all that Love and Fear the LORD, put their whole Truſt and Confidence in HIM alone, as ſhe doth, whom *HE* hath truly Humbled and Fitted to receive HIS Bleſſing and Mercy.

Auguſt 30 1692.

36 MY Affliction is very great, in the Pain and Illneſs that I Suffer both Night and Day; yet I cannot look out to get Eaſe in any Kind; becauſe I believe it is ſent only from the LORD my GOD, whoſe true Fear is much departed out of the Hearts of ſome of my near Relations, whom I have often both by Word and Writing, warn'd to take heed of Dallying with Sin, leaſt they be Captivated thereby, and ſo diſhonour the LORD, and bring my Life down to the Grave. My Advice hath been Slighted and Rejected by them; ſo that now I muſt Suffer both in Body and Spirit for them; crying in the Bitterneſs of my

Soul,

Soul, *Have I brought up Children to ſerve Their own Vain Deſires, and Diſhonour HIS Holy Name, who hath been a GOD of ſuch Infinite Mercy to us?* Surely I cannot Deſire to have my Pain remov'd, or taken from me, until they forſake every Evil Way, and turn their Minds to Righteouſneſs, leading ſuch Lives as may bring Everlaſting Reſt to their Souls, and True Peace, whilſt they are here.

THE Dread that was upon *Moſes* when *Iſrael* had Sin'd comes oft upon me, ſo that I gladly endure this Affliction for their ſakes, if it may pleaſe the LORD (after long Provocation) to pluck them as Brands out of the Fire, from the Ways and Cuſtoms of this Evil Generation, that My Children may be *HIS* Children, by their being good Examples in all Vertue, and above all, Self-denial, and Lowlineſs of Mind. As to my own particular, I have my Reward in this my Preſent Suffering, for it much weans me from this World, and all things in it, and makes me with more Eagerneſs, deſire after That which is far better. So I do not find any more I have to do for them, but only to Suffer, which I judge muſt be, all thoſe few days I have to be here, until they Fear and Dread to commit any Sin, and then they would have ſome Compaſſion on Me, and Pity My Suffering. *Help, O LORD, for THY Mercies ſake, and bring My Soul out of Trouble, that it may Praiſe Thee, LORD JESUS Receive my Spirit,* Amen, Amen.

My Dear Children,

37 MY Bodily Preſence with You avails Little, for it is Weak and Contemptible; but my Secret Cries to ALMIGHTY GOD for You all, are even continually before *HIM*, and above all Things that I ask and deſire is, That *HIS* Fear may always abide in your Hearts, that by it you may be preſerv'd out of Evil, and kept in the Light, for HE hath no Fellowſhip with the Deeds of Darkneſs.

LET Your Converſations be Blameleſs in the Sight of all Men; and Owe no Man any thing but Love; every Sin brings its Sorrow; a Sick Bed, and a Death Bed muſt be prepar-

ed for; to lie then in Peace without Trouble of Conſcience, is the greateſt Treaſure in this World; *A Wounded Conſcience, who can bear?*

SURELY had not the LORD of HOSTS left us a Seed, we had been as *Sodom*, and like unto *Gomorah*; how has ſome of You been pluck'd as Brands out of the Fire? And how has his Pity reach'd the deepeſt Miſery? Let HIS NAME be Exalted for ever, and let all Fleſh fear before HIM, who hath ſaid to my Soul, *Reſt thou in Peace*, I will call back Thy Children, but let them not return again to Folly.

I LEAVE this World, and go to my *FATHER*; with *HIM* is my Treaſure, and my Heart alſo. As for You, My Dear Children, I can lay no other Burden upon You, but that You Watch and Wait to find good deſires ariſing in Your Hearts, cleaving to That which is Heavenly, and reſiſting all Temptations to Evil; ſo will You grow in Grace, and in Hatred to all that would defile either Soul or Body; Your cry then will be, *Cleanſe THOU Me, O LORD, for I am Weary of my Sins.*

A GOOD Man will Guide His Affairs with Diſcretion, He ſhall not be afraid of Evil Tydings, His Heart is fix'd, Truſting in the LORD.

LIKE as a Father Pitieth His Children, ſo the LORD Pitieth them that Fear HIM; for HE knoweth our Frame, HE Remembreth that we are Duſt.

My Dear Children,

38 OBSERVE the laſt Counſel of Your Mother, who in Her Life time hath endeavour'd Faithfully to perform Her Part towards You all.

1. LET the greateſt of Your Care be how to Overcome, and get the Victory over all Sin in Your Selves; ſo ſhall Your good Converſations be Patterns of Righteouſneſs to others.

2. BEWARE of Ingratitude; O Remember and Forget not how Marvelouſly You have been provided for, and taken Care of; The manifold Mercies of the LORD hath been

been great towards You: Let the Conſideration thereof, cauſe you to ſtand in Awe of HIM, and to hate Sin all Your Days; where much is given, or forgiven, much is required, and You of all the Families of the Earth, ſhall not go unpuniſh'd, if You ſeek not to Serve the LORD with perfect Hearts, for HE hath choſen You to Serve HIM.

3. GET Your Selves Cloathed with Humility, let that be Your Ornament, and it will make You more to Excel in the Eyes of Others, then all outward Adorning.

4. LOVE the Croſs; Love that within You, which ſtrives againſt Your Luſts; take part with it againſt Your own Inclinations: Pray continually that you may get the Victory: For I, Your Dear Mother, have found it great Labour, Care, and Watchfulneſs all my Days, to be getting Dominion over the Foes of my own Houſe; to get every thought brought into Subjection; to keep the Fleſh down, and the Mind Heavenly; to ſpeak no Words but in the Watch; and to get Mortality ſwallowed up of Life; to ſit at HIS Feet, and hear HIS Word, to Obſerve It, and do It, for theſe Things have my cry in Secret been to HIM, who never ſaid, *Seek my Face in Vain.*

5. AND as ever your deſire to proſper in any thing you take in Hand, ſee that you be Dutiful and Obedient to your Father, leſt Grief and Sorrow ſhould be added to Him thro' you; then will you Blemiſh me, who am gone to the Grave in Peace: Therefore, Dear Children, look well to your Ways, and keep your Conſciences tender in every little matter; let a real and true Love be amongſt you all; Watching over one another for good, preſſing each other to Holineſs, and Zeal for Righteouſneſs; let your Lives be more in hidden Worth and Subſtance, then in outward Shews and Formalities, ſo ſhall your Reward be great; aſſure your Selves, the JUDGE of all the Earth will do Right.

6. AS to your Behaviour, let it be with Meekneſs, Modeſty, and Plain-Heartedneſs; Provoke none to Anger, if it may be avoided; be kind towards all, deny your ſelves to pleaſe others; keep not Company with Evil Perſons, leſt you be defiled thereby; be neither Covetous, nor Waſteful

Wasteful; be not Slothful, diligence is very Commendable; keep your Consciences clean, and then you will find that near you, which will Guide you aright in all things: The Blessing of the ALMIGHTY be with you all, my Hearty Prayers being to *HIM* to put *HIS* Fear into all your Hearts, which will preserve you from Sinning against HIM. This is the Desire of your Dear Mother.

Dear and truly Beloved, *Decem.* 12. 1697.

39 PONDERING your Kind Acceptance of my last to you, and the good use you made thereof, makes me willing yet this once more to let you hear from me, and of the Merciful Dealings of the LORD with me in my late Affliction, when that great Fall was Ordered for me, (last *March)* I being laid in my Bed, had not so much as any Consideration (that I remember) what should be done for the Healing thereof, but fell into deep Thoughts to know the Cause; then was all the Errors, I think, that ever I Committed in my Life set before me, and a true Repentance for the same; for I found a greater then *Jonas* was there, and then did my Merciful GOD shew HIS Infinite Love and Compassion to me; in so great a Measure, that I was carried quite above my Pain, and my time, both Night and Day, was chiefly spent in Praising and Magnifying HIS NAME, who in such great Mercy had Afflicted me. But this was in Secret, for I was kept very much in Silence, and great Stillness. Endless Praises be given unto HIM who Lives for ever. *Amen, Amen.*

Dear Daughter, 5 *April* 98

40 I have much ponder'd the Advice you gave me Yesterday, in seeking out some help for my Lameness, and do believe it came from the same tender Affection that was in you towards me from your Infancy, which makes me willing to satisfie You as much as I can; therefore may let You know, that I dare not neglect any thing I believe might be for the Cure of so great an Exercise; but it is so settled in my Mind, that nothing can avail therein, except the same

ſame good *HAND* of Providence that brought it upon Me (even for the Welfare of My Soul) direct Me to ſome Outward Means for Help, and a Bleſſing upon it, which I have not as yet found; therefore I am Willing at preſent, to ſtand ſtill, putting My whole Truſt in the LORD, who hath in a wonderful manner quieted me under this Affliction: I can never forget HIS Mercies, but muſt end My Days in Praiſing and Magnifying HIS NAME; I am well ſatisfied, when HIS Will is, Strength will be given Me; but if He ſees it beſt for Me to continue thus whilſt I Live; then, I do believe, I ſhall be kept in true Patience and Reſignedneſs, as I have hitherto been; which is no ſmall Mercy.

DEAR Child, do not you trouble your ſelf for me, but in all the Tryals you may meet withal in this World, ſubmit to HIM who takes Care of Sparrows; I am ſure nothing comes by Chance to me, but an Over-ruling *HAND* of Providence Orders all things for the beſt, unto which I Deſire to Commit, Your Husband (My Dear Son) Your Self, and little Babes. In the Retiredneſs of My Mind I oft remember You. Remaining

Your Loving Mother.

Couſin Winne, *1ſt July* 1698.

41 I TOOK kindly your coming hither Yeſterday, being glad to ſee You, expecting it might be the laſt time We ſhould ſee each other in this World; ſo when You went away, did in my Heart take a Solemn Leave of You; and when You hear I am Dead, then I deſire you to give Praiſe and Thankſgiving to the LORD for HIS Great and Endleſs Mercies to Me; They are more than I can mention; if I could, it muſt needs inflame Your Heart with fervent deſires to ſerve HIM with Reverence and Godly Fear, all Your Days.

Bleſſed are the Poor in Spirit, of which Number I deſire to be, Who am

Your Loving Aunt.

Dear

Dear Friend, 19 *November* 1671.

42 AS We were waiting upon the LORD an endeared Love we felt in HIM towards Thee and Thy Husband, and a True Fear was and ſtill is in Our Hearts, leſt You ſhould by any means be Hurt. And This is the Word that riſeth in us towards You; Bleſſed, Yea, Bleſſed are They that are not Offended with the LORD, nor with Us HIS Servants, becauſe of the Noiſes, Reproaches, & Hard Speeches and Scandals that have been raiſed upon Us and againſt Us, and that for HIS Sake, by thoſe People, to whom Our Love hath been more, than at preſent is convenient to mention; but Our Service and Love to Them being for the LORD's Sake only, We have our Reward, and are not at This preſent much to mind or meddle with Them; but for Your Sakes, This We may and are to ſay, That Our Marriage was not brought to paſs by any Mortal or Viſible Thing, but by the LORD alone were We of twain made one, and in HIS Everlaſting Life are We Joyned, in which We are and ſhall be Bleſſed. And this We may ſay farther, that in continual Watching and Waiting upon the LORD, were We kept from the time the LORD did reveal it to Us, till the matter was fully Accompliſh'd, leſt in any thing We ſhould at all Offend; Our Wills being wholly reſign'd up, into the Will of the LORD, without any reaſoning or conſulting with Fleſh about it. So that We having done the Will, Yea, We ſay the good Will and Pleaſure of the LORD in this matter, We are ſatisfied, and cannot but truſt in HIM, & ſpeak well of HIS Name, even of HIS Name who hath choſen us to follow HIM, and that with Delight, whether it be thro' Good or Evil Report; for of HIM, thro' HIM, and by HIM, We are, what We are, Who over all is GOD Bleſſed for ever and ever, ſaith HIS Servants and Your true Friends.

Dear Friends, 12 *February* 167½

43 WE cannot but call upon You, to Watch and Wait without Wearineſs or Faintneſs in Your Minds upon the LORD, that HE may ſpeedily ariſe for the Deli-

verance

ance of HIS Oppreſſed Seed. Oh We cannot but Suffer with It, for It's dear to Us, Our Souls being joyned unto It, makes Us often in Secret cry, *How long, how long, O LORD will the Time be, ere THOU wilt plead Its Cauſe, and ſcatter Its Enemies, that all that Loves It, may return Home to It, and fear none beſides It.* When the Strength of Love to It is felt; what can we do but wait in Patience, Meekneſs, and Fear, leſt we ſhould in haſte hinder this Work, which muſt go On and Proſper in the appointed Seaſon; yet this is a time for none to be Careleſs, becauſe the LORD hath ſpoken expreſly in Us, and by Us, of the Glorious appearance, that the truly ſincere in Heart have Longed for. Surely all that keep their Integrity to HIM alone, ſhall Rejoyce together, and Praiſe HIS Name with one Accord. And tho' as amongſt Men, we are Deſpiſed with Scorn; yet Our GOD reveals HIMSELF in Love and Mercy to Us, which fills Our Hearts with Pity and Compaſſion towards Them, neither can we in any kind render Evil for Evil to any, nor plead our Own Cauſe.

To the ſame Perſons, May, 1672.

44 TO keep with JESUS at all times, is our Place, that HE may teach Us HIS true Wiſdom, and wholly ſilence all Fleſh in Us. We read over *Iſaac*'s Letter, but it's not Our Work to Anſwer Words with Words, becauſe We are not without a Senſe that the Wiſdom, Wickedneſs, and Inventions of Men (to ſtop the Reigning of the Righteous Seed) hath Prevailed, even as the Waters in the Days of *Noah*. And ſhall it be always thus? Nay, for I have heard the Groans thereof, ſaith the LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, and am come to deliver, Yea, I am come to Deliver, and give eaſe to *That* which men would Limit, and Bind, and Reign over; now ſhall the Poor, and Needy be Refreſhed, with the freſh Springs of Life, whoſe Tongues have been ready to fail for Thirſt. Now ſhall the Myſtery of the Inviſible Life be reveal'd to thoſe that cannot Live without it: Now ſhall the Upright Praiſe the LORD together. This is teſtify'd from what is heard and ſeen by *That* which is Eternal; therefore are we all to be

be in readineſs, not having the Mind intangled or incumbred with thoughts of any thing whatſoever, but kept clean and chaſte. It may be as truly ſaid as ever, that the Friends of the BRIDEGROOM greatly Rejoiceth to hear the BRIDEGROOM's Voice, and the Joy is fulfilled, that no Subtilty can take away: So in all Humility, and in the Croſs, and in ſerious Watchfulneſs are We to be kept, for the Careleſs and the Exalted above the SEFD, are to be thrown down together, and cannot enter into the Kingdom which is prepared for the Simple and the Innocent, and in whom the ſtrength of Love hath prevailed to the LORD over all.

Dear,

45 GLAD ſhould We be if it was ſo order'd that You were with Us, whom the LORD hath not only joyn'd together, but Bleſt with an unſpeakable Bleſſing, for which we have cauſe to ſerve HIM, with Perfect Upright Hearts all our Days

MANY have caſt about in Their Thoughts, how This Marriage came to be, and even moſt have judged it by an Evil hand, and unclean Heart; this was we to bear, till the LORD whoſe Work alone it was, hath brought to naught the vain imaginations of Man. Dear Friends, This Night I have been kept much awake with the Sight of the many Hardſhips, Difficulties, and Temptations, the SEED that is in Bondage hath to paſs through, before it's full Deliverance from it's Cruel Task-Maſters, both within and without. It is Seal'd unto Me, the ſet time is come, yet many Wonders muſt be wrought before it's perfect Liberty from under all. In Peace and Reſt are we kept waiting in what we may to do the Will of our GOD, which is our only Delight; to be watchful over every word, Thought, and Action, that ſhall be done in HIS Fear and Councel, is Our Work.

X Return to pa. 13.

April 26 1700.

46 SHE told an intimate Friend, who came to Viſit her, that tho' She was brought Weak thro' much Sufferings, yet ſhe had found great and wonderful ſupport

port in all her Afflictions; and that at one particular time she had This confirm'd to her, *viz. The Candle is Lighted. The Houſe is Swept. The Loſt Groat is Found: Call in Thy Friends and Neighbours, that they may Rejoice with thee.*

Loving Friend, 18 *May* 1700

47 I Acknowledge Your Love in ſending me theſe Papers, which I here return to you again, having Read very little of any of them, for the Great Mercy I have receiv'd (which is more than I can Mention) engageth Me to much Silence, Quietneſs, and Watchfulneſs. Many Words, either to hear or ſpeak, is but a hinderance to the Enjoyment of HIM whom my Soul Loves, which in my Affliction, I have found to my great Comfort: I take kindly your thoughts of ſending me the Book of *Tho. of Kempis*, I have Read it much formerly, but now a true Retiring is call'd for from Your Friend, who in Sincerity Wiſheth well to You.

Dear, 17 *July* 1700.

48 FOR ſo indeed you are to me, having been a Lover of Righteouſneſs, and Hater of Wickedneſs, which hath brought You oft to My Remembrance.

WHEN Our Dear SAVIOUR ſhall appear, who ſhall change our Vile Bodies, and make them like unto HIS Glorious Body, then ſhall we enter into that State of Everlaſting Happineſs, which is prepared for all that have endeavoured Faithfully to ſeek after it. And for this Cauſe, that I might be fitted for ſo happy a Change, have I been thus exerciſed and try'd in the Fiery Furnace by Afflictions, even as Gold ſeven times tryed, that no droſs might be left. My Fleſh is much Conſumed, and my Strength Abated, but knowing all is ſent me for my Everlaſting Good, I have been made to bear it, not only Contentedly but Comfortably; ſo that few have been ſenſible of my great Suffering, and I have ſeen it not Worthy to be heeded, becauſe of the Shortneſs of this Life, and the Glory that is to be Revealed. The moſt of my time both Night and Day, is ſpent in ſecret, Praiſing and Magnifying the LORD my GOD, for HIS Mercies to me.

The

The Word, that hath been, and ſtill is Sounded in my Ears, is, *Be you always ready*, which that both You and I may Watch and Pray for, that We may be found in Readineſs, is the hearty deſire of, *&c.*

The foregoing was the laſt Letter ſhe Writ, or could Write, unto which the following was Writ in Anſwer, 25 Aug. 1700.

49 WHEN I hear from You, how juſt an Apprehenſion You have of Your Condition, which ſeems ſo Afflicting; and with how good a Mind you receive the ALMIGHTY's Dealing with You, I joy with You in the Proſpect of that Reward which is laid up for ſuch Patient Suffering. Such a ſight as you have of future Bliſs, after pain here, bears up your Spirit, not only eaſily to endure Afflictions here, but to rejoice under them. Happy You, and Happy They, that ſo See, and Bear.

28 *November* 1700

50 ALtho' She was ſo very Weak that ſhe did not care to ſpeak to any, yet that Morning ſhe ſpake to Me, and ſaid, *viz. I am very well, altho' I have had much Suffering, yet my Joy is Great.* At which ſaying I was much affected; which ſhe perceiving, in few Hours after ſpake again to Me thus, *Glory not, Boaſt not, but be ſtill; I deſire this may take deep impreſſion upon Thee.*

In the Afternoon ſhe told me ſhe was very Weak, and ask'd me if I had any diſcovery of the time of her Death. I ſaid, I had not, it was hid from me. She ſaid, ſhe had long waited for her SAVIOUR's Call, and that ſhe had foreſeen the Death of others, but now the time of her own Departure was hid from her.

She grew Weaker and Weaker every Day till the 14 of *January* following, and then laid down her Head, in a Peaceable, Quiet, and Happy State.

FIN

MVSEVM BRITAN NICVM